To the Proprietors *of the* Universal Magazine.

Gentlemen,

PLEASE to find a corner in your Magazine for the following Dialogue, which I can aſſure you paſſed at Court a few days after the death of Sir Joſeph Yates, between the R——r of L——n and Lord N——h. —The R——r, on ſeeing Lord N——h, placed himſelf immediately in his way, on which Lord N———h accoſted him with—Your ſervant, Mr. R———r, how go matters in the city?

R———r. Strangely, my Lord—I have been R———r of the city of L——n for ſeven years, and upwards; and, to tell your Lordſhip the truth, I am heartily tired of it.—

Lord N——h. For ſeven years, Mr. R——r!

R——r. Yes, my Lord, and upwards.

Lord N——h. 'Tis a long time, indeed; and I muſt own my ſurpriſe; for we Officers here can ſcarce keep in one year.

The R——r was ſo ſtrangely chagrined and diſappointed at this anſwer (expecting a different one) that he left Court immediately.

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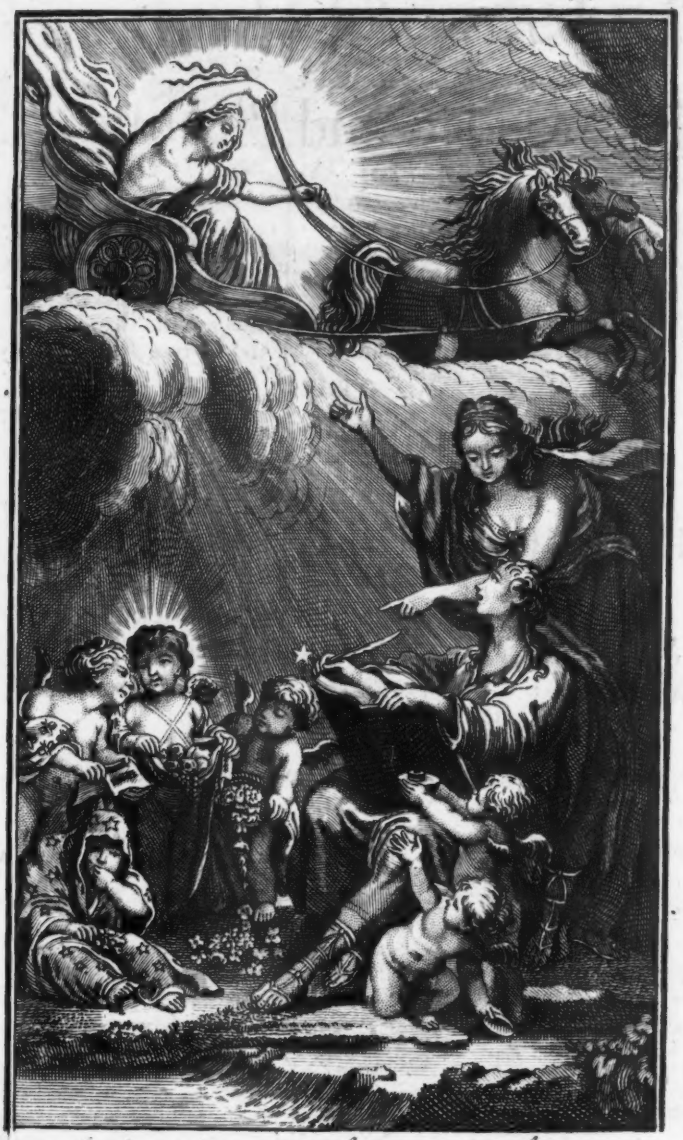
Wisdom, that Spark of the celestial fire,
Which above nature makes Mankind aspire?



Is the rich treasure of a generous breast,
That gives the stamp and standard to the rest;
Arts, Wit, and genious, are but dang'rous force,
Unless this Soften and direct their course.

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PREFACE,

AND

EXPLANATION of the FRONTISPIECE.

WE are now entering upon the *Forty-ſixth Volume* of the UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE, and do acknowledge ourſelves intirely obliged to our *Readers* and *Correſpondents*, for the Encouragement and Helps they have given us during the Courſe of the laſt Year. For a long Time back, we have had great Reaſon to ſhew our Senſe of Gratitude to them, but ſcarce ever before greater than at preſent: For, notwithſtanding the Number of Competitors the laſt Year has produced, we have been diſtinguiſhed by a more favourable Acceptance of our Endeavours; and, though the preſent Year rather portends an Augmentation than Diminution, ſome new ones having already made their Appearance; yet, far from being alarmed at the formidable Apparatus they boaſt of, we intend to proceed with Alacrity, relying on the ſame candid Approbation which has hitherto ſupported us.

The original Deſign of *Magazines*, together with recording the Occurrences of the Month, was to improve the Mind by uſeful and agreeable Reſearches and curious Points of Knowledge: But ſeveral cannot help taking Notice, and we ourſelves obſerve with Pain, that ſome Magazines of late Inſtitution deviate from that Plan, aſſuming a Latitude of deſcanting on the intriguing Spirit and private Follies and Vices of our People in high Stations. This Mode of diſſeminating Scandal may well be called unwarrantable, being very improperly calculated to diſcredit Vice, and rather ſeeming to propoſe it, as faſhionable and in Vogue, to the Example of the inferior Sort; who too prone, indeed, to imitate their Superiors, ſhould have nothing placed before them as Patterns to copy after, but the Lives and Actions of the truly Good and Great.

In another Reſpect it might ſeem, from the Feuds and Animoſities, whereby Minds have been agitated theſe few Years paſt, that *Politics* is become a fit Object for Magazines. Granted it might, if it did not eſpouſe the Views of Party or Faction. But as Science, Arts, and the Muſes delight in the Shade of Peace, ſeeking tranquil Contemplation, undiſturbed by the Tu-

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multuous Noiſe of Broils and Contention; ſo we, their Votaries, having nothing more at Heart than a compoſed and ſettled State of the Nation, think of abiding by our accuſtomed Plan; yet do ſincerely wiſh that Harmony may reign among all Parties, and Government once more coaleſce in a perfect Conſiſtency, purſuant to thoſe ſalutary Admonitions the Goodneſs of our Conſtitution recommends and inculcates.

We are very ſenſible that it is not our Buſineſs to give Inſtructions, much leſs to make Remonſtrances; and that thoſe who imagine it their Duty ſo to do, by often concerting wrong Meaſures, take neceſſarily a wrong Biaſs: For Zeal itſelf, through the Imbecillity of human Views, is ſubject to many falſe Steps, and, endeavouring to reform Abuſes, may carry the Stroke too far: Yet known Corruptions ſhould always feel the Weight of juſt Severity; and very hard Cenſures ought to be paſſed on ſeveral Things, though they may have Example, Cuſtom, and Authority to plead for them.—Well, but may not theſe Exertions againſt Practices pernicious in their Tendency be preſſed with too great Rigour, ſo as to prove a Diſcouragement to many from ever thinking to purſue the proper Methods for a Reformation; and may not, in general, all Abuſes, by being repreſented more flagrant than they are in Fact, ſerve, in the Point of being rectified, for ſcarce more than a Condemnation of one Extreme by running into another.

Wiſdom, always influenced by Moderation and the public Utility, ought to be the Teſt all dubious Affairs, creative of inteſtine Troubles, ſhould be put to. This is partly expreſſed by our *Frontiſpiece*.

In it the amiable Figure of *Virtue* adviſes *Man*, who records her Inſtructions, that his Thoughts and Actions ſhould aſpire rather to *Wiſdom* and *Immortality*, figured by their ancient Symbol, *Apollo*, driving the Chariot of the Sun, than be confined to the tranſient Enjoyments of a *Span* of *Time*, pointed to in the Repreſentation of our *natural Day*, conſiſting of *Morning*, *Noon*, *Evening*, and *Night*.

Hence all, in general, ſhould be induced to indulge at Times a ſerious Thought, and conſider this *emblematic Exhibition* of *Day*, as the *Picture of Human Life*, which being but ſhort, all our Actions, as rational Beings, ſhould tend to make it conformable to the *Deſign* of its great Author, which is, that, to be agreeable to him, it ought conſtantly to be under the Direction and Regulation of *Reaſon*, that Ray of his Wiſdom, which he has appointed to be our Guide.——This we have endeavoured to illuſtrate in the following Diſcourſe.